

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 998

Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal

February 20, 2003

An act to add Article 9.1 (commencing with Section 41998) to Chapter 3 of Part 4 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to air quality, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 998, as introduced, Lowenthal. Air quality: Nontoxic Dry-cleaning Incentive grant program.

Existing law designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with coordinating efforts to attain and maintain ambient air quality standards.

This bill would require the state board to impose a \$3 fee on every person that purchases a gallon of perchloroethylene in the state, and to deposit the revenues generated by that fee in the Nontoxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Trust Account, which would be established in the Air Pollution Control Fund by the bill. The bill would authorize moneys deposited in the account to be continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, for expenditure by the state board to fund a grant program, and would require that program to be developed by the state board. The program would provide \$10,000 grants to any eligible dry cleaner in the state that utilizes perchloroethylene in its operations to aid its transition to utilizing non-toxic alternatives.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) State and federal scientific health agencies have determined that perchloroethylene is either a probable, possible, or known carcinogen.

(b) Occupational health studies have found elevated rates of lung, cervical, bladder, and other cancers in dry cleaning workers.

(c) Laboratory studies have found increased numbers of cancerous tumor in animals exposed to perchloroethylene.

SEC. 2. Article 9.1 (commencing with Section 41998) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 4 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 9.1. Nontoxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program

41998. (a) The state board shall impose a three dollar (\$3.00) fee on every person that purchases a gallon of perchloroethylene in the state.

(b) Moneys generated by the fee imposed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be deposited in the Nontoxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Trust Account, which is hereby established in the Air Pollution Control Fund.

(c) Moneys deposited in the Nontoxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Trust Account are, notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, to the state board to fund the grant program described in Section 41999.

(d) Not more than 5 percent of the moneys in the account, calculated annually, may be utilized by the state board to administer the grant program.

41999. (a) The state board shall develop and establish a grant program that provides incentives for dry cleaners in the state that utilize perchloroethylene in their operations to transition to utilizing nontoxic alternatives.

(b) The state board shall determine the eligibility of grant recipients.

(c) The state board shall make grants available in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to any eligible dry cleaning

- 1 operation for the purchase of new equipment to aid in that
- 2 operation's transition to a non-toxic dry cleaning process, as
- 3 determined by the state board.

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